been alerted from time to time to take steps against the black-marketing/diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/ malpractice to the OMCs.

Further, LPG distributors are also under instructions to ensure 100% weighment of cylinders at their godown before delivery at the customers premises. In a bid to enhance customer satisfaction levels, distributors in selected markets have been advised by OMCs to provide a spring balance to enable the customers to verify the correctness of the weight of LPG in the cylinder. OMCs have introduced this scheme in major markets of the country.

The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godowns, delivery points, as well as en-route to ensure that no pilferage takes place. The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at their godowns before delivery, and only cylinders with the specified weighted are to be delivered to the customers. The distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals are verified and shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any underweight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are repeated with a fresh refill cylinder without any charges levised by the OMCs.

Formula for gas pricing

830. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked Secretary's panel to frame formula for gas pricing so that the Energy Co-ordination Committee will take final decision on fixing of the gas price;

(b) whether at present, natural gas has three pricing regimes;

(c) whether the Prime Minister has asked the oil industry to examine options for gas pricing policy which are equitable and conducive to the development of this sector; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is, likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a), (c) and (d) Government constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) to consider issues relating to pricing and commercial utilization of natural gas under NELP. EGoM has decided the issue of pricing of gas under NELP. The EGoM has also decided that the price discovery process on arms length basis will be adopted in the fututre NELP contracts only after the approval of the price basis/formula by the Government. They have also decided that the price discovered through this process would be applicable to all the sectors, uniformly.

(b) The price of gas produced by ONGC and OIL from the blocks allotted to them on nomination basis is determined by the Government; this constitutes Administrative Pricing Mechanism (APM) gas. The gas produced by Joint Ventures (JVs)/Private Companies is available at price determined by the respective Production Sharing Contract (PSC). As regards LNG, while the price of LNG imported under term contracts is governed by the SPA between the LNG seller and the buyer, the spot cargoes are purchased on mutually agreeable commercial terms.